

Waterbars

A waterbar is somewhat like an angled speed bump that is installed diagonally across closed roads, skid trails or firelines. Waterbars are a good choice for controlling erosion and runoff, but can be tricky to correctly construct and install.

Tips and suggestions when building waterbars:

- Construct the waterbar from the uphill side.
- Angle the waterbar diagonally, from 15 to 30 degrees downslope toward the outfall edge of the road or trail.
- Excavate a shallow trench alongside the base of the upslope face of the waterbar to carry the runoff.
- Extend waterbar completely across the road or trail travel pathway.
- Tie-in the upper end of the waterbar with the adjoining slope bank, if there is one.

 ***Do not drive over a waterbar once it is installed.***

Remember:

A correctly-built waterbar should not act like a dam. Waterbars divert runoff into a stable filter area.